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Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Fouad **Rajeh** (Saudi Arabia)

I. Introduction

1. The previous recommendation made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 165 appears in the report of the Committee contained in document A/58/589.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the item at its 46th and 51st meetings, on 21 May and 3 June 2004. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/58/SR.46 and 51).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Mission in Liberia for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 (A/58/744);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on the financing arrangements for the United Nations Mission in Liberia for the period from 1 August 2003 to 30 June 2004 (A/58/792);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: budget performance for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 and budget for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 (A/58/705);

(d) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/58/759 and A/58/798).

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/58/L.76

4. At its 51st meeting, on 3 June, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia" (A/C.5/58/L.76), which was submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of New Zealand.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/58/L.76 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of and the note by the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia[1] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolution 1497 (2003) of 1 August 2003, by which the Council declared its readiness to establish a United Nations stabilization force to support the transitional government and to assist in the implementation of a comprehensive peace agreement in Liberia,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 1509 (2003) of 19 September 2003, by which the Council decided to establish the United Nations Mission in Liberia for a period of twelve months,

Recalling further its resolution 58/261 of 23 December 2003 on the financing of the Mission,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolution of the Security Council,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission in Liberia as at 15 April 2004, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 139.3 million United States dollars, representing some 31 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only thirty-eight Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full;

3. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear

[1] A/58/705, A/58/744 and A/58/792.
[2] A/58/759 and A/58/798.

additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

4. *Also expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

5. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

6. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

7. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Mission;

8. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3] subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review the projects that may require the services of consultants, in order to ensure the implementation of those projects that are required for the successful implementation of the mandate, and to report thereon in the performance report;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

11. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the Mission against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Mission;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005

12. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission in Liberia the amount of 864,815,900 dollars for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005, inclusive of 821,986,000 dollars for the maintenance of the Mission, 35,015,300 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 7,814,600 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base;

Financing of the appropriation

13. *Decides also* to apportion among Member States the amount of 864,815,900 dollars at a monthly rate of 72,067,991 dollars, in accordance with the levels set out in resolution 55/235, as adjusted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/236 of 23 December 2000 and updated in its resolution 58/256 of 23 December 2003, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2004 and 2005

[3] A/58/798.

as set out in its resolution 58/1 B of 23 December 2003, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission;

14. *Decides further* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 13 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 15,634,600 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 10,084,900 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 5,109,600 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 440,100 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

Financing of the appropriation for the period from 1 August 2003 to 30 June 2004

15. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General on the financing arrangements of the Mission for the period from 1 August 2003 to 30 June 2004;[4]

16. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the additional amount of 114,494,300 dollars already appropriated for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 August 2003 to 30 June 2004 under the terms of its resolution 58/261, at a monthly rate of 10,408,600 dollars, in accordance with the levels set out in resolution 55/235, as adjusted by the General Assembly in its resolutions 55/236 and 57/290 A of 20 December 2002, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2003, as set out in its resolutions 55/5 B of 23 December 2000 and 57/4 B of 20 December 2002, and updated in resolution 58/256, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2004 as set out in its resolution 58/1 B;

17. *Approves* the reduction in the estimated staff assessment income approved for the Mission in the amount of 1,449,100 dollars, from 5,210,000 dollars to 3,760,900 dollars;

18. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

19. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel under the auspices of the United Nations participating in the Mission;

20. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia".

[4] A/58/792.